

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR DON KNABE

January 8, 2008

The concept of "cost avoidance" to our County's safety net has been a primary rationale for investment of local dollars into programs and services geared towards ending homelessness. This concept makes logical sense, as the number of homeless we can refer into supportive housing and treatment programs is the same number you can divert from continual visits to the hospitals and stays in county jail. This in theory creates savings we could reinvest in the programs that have shown success. I understand that jurisdictions such as New York City and San Francisco have reported cost avoidances to their public health and jail system that translated into reinvestable savings along these lines.

We are facing challenges to our County budget in the near future. I believe we should plan now to maximize the \$100 million dollars this Board invested in ending homeless in Los Angeles County through identification and possible reinvestment of cost savings to our safety net, rather than look to funding these efforts first with new infusions of County dollars.

- M O R E -

MOTION

MOLINA	_____
YAROSLAVSKY	_____
KNABE	_____
ANTONOVICH	_____
BURKE	_____

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the CEO work in coordination with Director of the Department of Health Services, Sheriff's Department and other appropriate departments to develop a clear methodology and formula for determining precisely how excessive costs to the County for providing health care and other social services to the homeless via the jails and emergency rooms could be avoided by implementing the programs established by the Homeless Prevention Initiative, and how savings to the County could be identified.

I, FURTHER, MOVE that the CEO report back with this information prior to FY 2008-2009 budget deliberations.

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